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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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Before The

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

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Filing by the Industrial

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PR Docket No. 92-235

Telecommunications Association, Inc.

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Concerning a Framework for

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Mobile Radio Services

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COMMENTS OF THE E.F. JOHNSON COMPANY

E. F. Johnson Company ("E.F. Johnson" or the "Company"), pursuant to the provisions of Section 1.415 of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") hereby submits its comments in response to the filing by the Industrial Telecommunications Association, Inc. ("ITA") for a framework for consolidation of the Private Land Mobile Radio Services. The proposal is in response to the Commissions actions on Refarming and Docket 92-235. (1)

(1) Notice of Proposed Rule Making, PR Docket No. 92-235, adopted October 8, 1992, 7 FCC Rcd. 8105 (1992).

I. INTRODUCTION

E. F. Johnson is a leading designer and manufacturer of radio communications and specialty communications products for commercial and public safety use. Founded seventy-three (73) years ago as an electronic components manufacturer, E. F. Johnson entered the radio communications equipment market in the late 1940's and is one of the three (3) largest providers of land mobile radio systems in the United States. It produces base stations, vehicular mounted and portable transmitters that operate in various portions of the radio spectrum, that include all of the refarmed spectrum. This equipment is used by a variety of entities requiring communications capabilities.

With this filing, ITA, Inc. has taken the first step in allowing the Land Mobile industry to move forward with the FCC Refarming initiative and to allow the end users the opportunity to expand and operate systems in a spectrum starved environment. While the Commission must decide on the final determination of the reuse of all channels, this "blueprint" is a debarkation point that will bring to a close this FCC initiative. The blueprint offers the FCC the base to begin their final determination of Docket No. 92-235.

II. COMMENTS

A. Consolidation of Radio Services into Two (2) Pools

While this action, at first glance, appears to be a radical approach, we feel that it offers the only alternative to the Commissions original request under PR Docket No. 92-235.

For more than two (2) years the industry has been trying to get a consensus on how to streamline the coordinated process for the advantage of the users of radio equipment and for the processing of applications by the FCC. It appears, that finally a proposal has been setforth that allows the licensees and potential licensees a more satisfactory process for filing applications. It allows for the filing and coordination for licensees that this community has not seen in years. The ability for a central point for coordination will benefit both the end user and the FCC in their work of selection of frequencies and in granting of authorizations.

Further, it allows for the protection of the Public Safety community, and offers a vehicle for protecting this community. Thus, the concept of two (2) pools offers a solution to the concerns that has plagued this Docket for years.

B. Consolidation of 470-512 MHz Band in to One Pool

While the 470-512 MHz Television Shared frequencies are relegated to eleven (11) cities, while Detroit, Michigan and Cleveland, Ohio are still being negotiated

by the FCC and DOC, the use of this band has developed into an area of large systems and licensees. However, as the original pools were set forth by the Commission, relicensing has been the advent of channels in some markets being licensed to more than one service. Further, as frequencies become available due to FCC initiative or some other action, these channels go into the General Access Pool. (2) Thus channels that were, at one time used for Public Safety entities, now are used by general business users. One pool would allow for a more equitable and expedient method for spectrum to be licensed and utilized.

C. Allow Special Provision to Protect Unique Classes of Radio Systems

The need for protection of entities that have communication systems that deal with large, specific, industries that communications are needed for the security and protection of life and property. This is especially prevalent in the railroad and aviation industry. Effective communications is mandatory for the protection of millions of citizens and billions of dollars in business. It is imperative that these services be protected by the Commission. Thus, we support the efforts of ITA in it's filing by offering protection of communications for these types of operations.

(2)CFR 47, Telecommunications, Part 90 to End, Rule Section 90.311 (a)(1)(2).

III. CONCLUSION

The forward movement of this filing by ITA, Inc. is hopefully the final phase of the refarming initiative by the Commission. This "blueprint" offers to the Commission a direction to take towards the final acceptance and action. The E. F. Johnson Company completely supports this initiative by ITA and urges the FCC to act quickly to complete this rulemaking proceeding so that consumers can enjoy the spectrum being offered.

The E. F. Johnson Company hereby submits the foregoing comments and requests that the Commission act in a manner consistent with the views expressed herein.

Respectfully submitted,

E.F. JOHNSON COMPANY

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Allen" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark S. Allen
Vice President

Dated: February 7, 1997